



July/August 2009

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Trips (see page 5)

Saturday, July 11, Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes.

No membership meeting until September.

No Board Meeting until September.

Native Here (see page 4)

Native Here open for business & volunteer help, Fridays 9 am to 12 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, and Tuesdays 12 pm to 3 pm

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Spring has proved to be both challenging and rewarding for the Conservation Committee with some of our major issues moving toward resolution and others still hanging in the balance. Thanks to the following volunteers and plant scientists who have pushed hard to ensure that CNPS's concerns are always on the table by gathering information, attending meetings, offering comment, and writing letters: Heath Bartosh, David Bigham, Bob Case, Janet Gawthrop, Mary Ann Hannon, Dianne Lake, Erin McDermott, Peter Rauch, Sue Rosenthal, and Roy West. Please be sure to visit the conservation web page to view the letters of public comment that we have submitted on these and other projects.

Serpentine Prairie: The East Bay Regional Park District has come up with an excellent restoration plan for the Serpentine Prairie in Redwood Regional Park. Over the past three years, EBCNPS has lobbied hard to get a sound, scientifically based plan that would restore and protect this botanical gem. In May, the District issued its Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Serpentine Restoration Plan. In July the Board will vote on whether to adopt the IS/MND. The next steps will involve the first phases of tree removal and fencing. We will continue to work to help see the full implementation of the plan and to assist in public education regarding the restoration.

Vegetation Management in the Urban-Wildland Interface: EBCNPS joined forces with the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Golden Gate Chapter of Audubon to issue a green paper on our views on how to approach vegetation management at the interface to reduce the danger of catastrophic fire while enhancing native plant and wildlife habitat. The centerpiece of our paper is the emphasis on a site-specific approach. To date, management of the interface has been based on generic fuels models which effectively exclude consideration of native habitat values. The coalition has introduced our approach to

the District in light of its upcoming release of the EIR and Vegetation Management Plan for the East Bay Hills Fuelbreak later this summer.

Russell City Energy Center: We have continued to provide public comment and technical support to the grassroots organizations who are fighting to prevent approval and construction of Calpine's giant power plant next to the sensitive native habitat of the Hayward Regional Shoreline. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has not been able to issue its final permit to greenlight the project. Attorneys from Earthjustice who are representing the Citizens Against Pollution have successfully argued to the EPA that the Air District, in attempting to grant Calpine its Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit, cannot use the PM10 standard (referring to the size of the particulate matter of 10 microns) as a surrogate for the more stringent PM 2.5.

Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC)

Transmission Project: A statewide project has arisen to connect potential "green" power generation facilities with end users throughout Northern California. TANC promises to drape another 600 miles of power lines across northern California associated with renewable energy generation. After a tumultuous public meeting in Livermore in May, where TANC refused to record comments from the 200+ attendees, the transmission project is likely to have little support from local residents, environmentalists, or public agencies. TANC admits to failing to work with existing utility companies to maximize existing corridors and towers in their "green" project. EBCNPS will be submitting comments on this and other associated problems. Please let Lech know if you'd like to help write or review comments.

Tres Vaqueros Wind-Repowering Project: A Texas wind power company that owns a facility located in eastern Con-

Continued on page 2

tra Costa County has applied for permits to remove existing wind towers and build new towers and 13 miles of new roads across land that is currently under protection of conservation easements. We pointed out in our scoping letter that, in addition to a host of legal problems that arise from such a proposal, there is the potential for impact to special status plants *Atriplex depressa* and *A. coronata* var. *coronata* and to sensitive plant communities on site.

Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS):

We continue to provide input on the EACCS process through monthly “users group” meetings and communication with the steering committee and consulting staff. We have deep concerns over the legitimacy of this approach to conservation. While the focal plant species are good conservation targets, we continue to press for authentic technical review and a more transparent public process. Thus far, we have received no response to our formal letter of February, 2009 to the steering committee outlining our issues. We reiterated our complaints at the first public meeting this month. Because the EACCS does not contain the same legal protections as an HCP, there is a danger of setting a precedent for other jurisdictions to adopt this approach to “conservation planning” in lieu of an HCP.

Priority Protection Areas (PPA): We are working toward finishing our first full draft of the PPA. This document will map and describe some 15 areas where we believe plant conservation activities should be directed. Coordination of our efforts with Project Manager Heath Bartosh of the Rare Plants Committee is helping make this a rigorous and informative document.

CNPS STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION

We need to have more East Bay members involved at the Chapter and Statewide level. There are many important committees that need active members. The work is of vital importance to our natural heritage. At June’s quarterly meeting we were informed of the dangers that solar arrays may bring to pristine desert, of unfavorable court decisions that need to be litigated, of the great work by Carol Witham who steered the UC Merced development away from rare vernal pools, of fire control threats to native plants at the wildland urban interface, of new efforts to reach school age children and introduce them to the wonders of nature, and many other issues of statewide and chapter importance.

Check out the CNPS website at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/about/staff.php>

Here you will find photos and biographies of the people who have taken leadership roles for CNPS as well as the CNPS staff. These are the people who come to the quarterly Chapter Council meetings along with Chapter Council Representatives from each of the 33 chapters. These meetings promote

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion: As many long-time CNPS members may remember, the Contra Costa Water District created mitigations years ago for the original reservoir that included planting of oaks and protections for listed species. CCWD has proposed flooding these mitigations in its bid to expand the reservoir. We submitted comments on the draft EIR/EIS noting a host of impacts. EBCNPS believes that legally imposed mitigations for a project should not be destroyed to create a new project.

Oakland Zoo Expansion: The Oakland Zoo hosted a late-noticed meeting in May to discuss its plans for expansion in Knowland Park. The highly controversial plans—which include a large veterinary hospital, a California wildlife exhibit, overnight camping area, an aerial gondola, and a fenced enclosure that would remove up to 60 acres of open space and trail from free public access—have shifted over time and increased in scope. As yet, there have been no copies of plans, proposals, or illustrations that the public can examine. Knowland Park has large expanses of grassland and oak woodlands with vibrant native flora. Despite our requests for a land management plan that would fulfill the zoo’s role as steward of this lovely site, none has as yet been developed. EBCNPS believes that the zoo’s commitment to the wild should extend beyond educating the public about the “exotic” and should embrace the values inherent in the natural community of its own East Bay hills setting.

Lech Naumovich and Laura Baker

communication and coordination between groups. Council meetings are often the source and final approval for CNPS policies. The Chapter Council elects its own officers as well as the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for the financial, administrative, general business, and sustainability of the Society.

You can see that your financial contributions are well utilized with excellent volunteer commitment and professional staff.

We also need your active participation. Please check out the [cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) website and /or call or email Delia .

Delia Taylor
East Bay Chapter Council Representative

CNPS WORKSHOPS

August 12-14th, Vegetation Rapid Assessment:

Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evans, Jennifer Buck, and Josie Crawford

Location: Donner Summit

Course Description: The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), present a Vegetation Rapid Assessment workshop near Donner Summit. The course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling. The course will focus on collecting data using the CNPS Rapid Assessment protocol. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

Cost: Members \$365

Non-members \$390

Sept 29- Oct 1, Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert

Primary Instructors: James M. Andre & Tasha La Doux

Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

Course Description: Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower

in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes.

Cost: TBA

October 13-15, Vegetation Mapping:

Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evans, Anne Klein, and Jennifer Buck, Rachelle Boul, and John Menke

Location: Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley and Marin Municipal Water District, Fairfax

Course Description: Please join CNPS and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for a three-day vegetation mapping workshop, hosted by University of California Berkeley's Geospatial Imaging and Informatics facility and Marin Municipal Watershed District (MMWD), Mount Tamalpais. This workshop will be a combination of field and computer exercises in fine-scale vegetation mapping. Participants will learn about vegetation sampling, classification, and photo interpretation. They will collect reconnaissance samples to support a Vegetation classification and map and practice techniques of photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution. They will use accuracy assessment to validate a vegetation map.

Cost: Members \$570

Non-members \$595

SUMMER COURSES WITH GLENN KEATOR

Native Plant Habitats

A chance to learn about beautiful native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in their native habitats as a guide to use in gardens. We visit 8 diverse habitats throughout the Bay Area every Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 2:30 pm for four weeks. Starts on Tuesday, July 7 and ends Thursday, August 6. Meet at Regional Parks (Tilden) Botanic Garden.

Register through Merritt College. Register early as classes that have low numbers are cancelled before they meet.

Wildflowers of the Central Sierra

Join us for one of the premier wildflower hot spots of the high Sierra. Two days of looking at wildflower meadows and upland forests near Carson Pass, just south of Lake Tahoe. Camping or motels. Sunday, July 12 and Monday, July 13.

Offered through the Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden. To sign up contact John Rusk at john@rusk.com..

The Magic of Using Composites in Gardens

Even though you may find it difficult to identify members of this vast and important family, you can appreciate their beauty, ease of culture, and late bloom in native-style gardens. Two Saturdays, August 22 and 29.

Offered through the Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden. To sign up contact John Rusk at john@rusk.com.

Contact Glenn Keator, gkeator@aol.com, for information about two privately offered courses.

Glenn Keator

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Support our chapter's activities by shopping at Native Here

Summer is the time to think about what to plant in your garden in the fall and winter. Prep your garden now and plant later when the temperatures are lower and the soil is soft. View our selection of plants and browse our books on gardening, botany, and natural history. Purchase the CD East Bay Native Plants with over 250 photos and write-ups of local natives.

We're growing some ferns and wild ginger, which, like irises, will not be put out for sale until the Plant Fair, which will be October 10-11.

Nature observations at the nursery

We keep finding bird nests around the nursery. Janice found a tiny lichen-covered hummingbird nest (either an Anna's or Allen's hummingbird) on a blackberry vine on the fence



in the Berkeley section. We spotted a dark-eyed junco nest in a 15 gallon pot next to the shade structure in the Tilden section. The nest contained 4 beautiful brown-speckled white eggs. As of June 8th it contains very tiny baby birds! And the bushtit nest is still in the small oak tree. Nests of other birds have appeared in some umbrellas in the southern part of the nursery.



Featured Books for July-August 2009

Our first featured book this summer is *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and Their Relatives*, by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons. This hardcover book has beautiful photographs and

detailed descriptions of each species, its habitat and cultivation, and references to get more information. The first chapter is a classification and history of the genus and the last chapter gives more information on cultivating *Calochortus*. One copy left for \$30.

Our second featured book is *Growing California Native Plants*, by Marjorie Schmidt. This softcover book is the classic reference on propagating and cultivating California native annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, and trees. Schmidt gives descriptions of each native plant, how to propagate it, and how to grow it in your garden. The book has illustrations and photographs as well. At the end of the book are lists of plants by requirements, i.e. sun and shade conditions preferred by various natives. \$15

Volunteer opportunities for Plant Fair 2009 and Native Here year-round

- Join us for work parties to help get the nursery ready for the plant fair. The first one is Saturday July 18 starting at 10 am, and the second one is Saturday August 22 at 10 am. Help clean up the nursery, weed, pot up plants, and get familiar with our plant selection. Snacks and drinks provided.

- Join us on our seed collecting trips on Thursdays. Meet at the bottom gate of the nursery at 9 am. For further information check the calendar of the chapter website www.ebcnps.org, or e-mail nativehere@ebcnps.org. Usually the group returns by 1 pm, but occasional longer trips will be scheduled. E-mail ahead if time is a concern or call the nursery on Tuesday afternoon between noon and 3.

- Watering the thousands of plants in the nursery must be done carefully and with attention to conserving water. If you can spend two hours each week on a regular basis, a section can be assigned to you. If you can spare time less frequently, come in on Tuesday afternoon or Saturday morning to help fill in for those on vacation and to relieve the managers of some of the watering tasks. No experience is necessary. We will train you. Strong wrists are important.

- We'll need many volunteers just before, during and after the Fair itself. There are also tasks well in advance that need brains, hands and time. One of these is getting the bulbs ready for sale, sifting those ready, packaging, labeling and pricing them. Early September is the latest to get started on that, so a volunteer in August would be great!

- If you know of a craftsperson whose work would fit our Plant Fair theme, please let Charli know so that the committee can consider inviting him or her to participate as a vendor at the Plant Fair by e-mailing nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Margot Cunningham

KIDS ARE WELCOME AT NATIVE HERE NURSERY!



Karl and Jack Stull are having a blast in the dirt pile. They've found the red wagons, know where Mom is, and can get a drink when they need one.

Mom (Nita Stull) is helping out by taking a watering shift.

We need lots of help this summer to water the 10,000 plus plants at the nursery. You can be scoping out the plants you would like to buy, find a hummingbird's nest, enjoy the bird-song and fresh air while you water. Kids can help if they are old enough or just play.

Delia Taylor



FIELD TRIP

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 am to approximately 2 pm, Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes. This gentle, flat 2-mile-long trail that leads out to the dunes and ocean at Abbott's Lagoon is a year-round favorite with Marin CNPS. By July, we should have the summer species of the marshes in full flower. Doreen Smith will lead us to the rare *Sidalcea calycosa* ssp. *rhizomata*, delicate *Campanula californica* and the very colorful, but rank-smelling *Stachys chamissonis* along the newly refurbished boardwalk-enhanced trail. Around the brackish lagoon, the receding water level should expose emergent aquatic plants, including *Lilaeopsis occidentalis*, an unusual member of Apiaceae (carrot family) at the southern limit of its range. On the bluffs above and south of the bridge we should find the blue-flowered coastal *Gentiana affinis* var. *ovata*. A plant list can be downloaded from the Marin CNPS website.

Directions: Take 580 over the Richmond-San Rafael bridge and then go to the ramp connecting to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in San Rafael. To get to Abbott's Lagoon from central Marin County, follow Sir Francis Drake Boulevard west for about 20 miles through some of the small towns of Marin County. Go past Fairfax, over the hill to San Geronimo Valley, and on west to Olema. At the stop sign in Olema, turn right onto Route 1, and then after several miles make a left turn back onto Sir Francis Drake Boulevard; the sign is for Inverness and the lighthouse. (If you've gone into Point Reyes Station, you've gone too far.) At the fork in the road over the hill from Inverness, take the road that's marked "Pierce Point Road", and follow that another few winding miles going northwest to the clearly marked parking lot for Abbott's Lagoon, where there are restroom facilities.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Chapter Jobs Bulletin

East Bay Chapter is in urgent need of a dedicated Outreach person. This person would be in charge of reaching out to our membership for volunteers to cover all of our requested tabling events throughout the year and possibly finding other venues we could share. All materials, tables, chairs, canopies, flyers etc. are readily available at our Native Here Nursery. A current membership list would be supplied as a resource for seeking volunteers. Please contact elainejx@att.net or any Board Member.

Meet Delia Taylor, East Bay CNPS President 2009



My husband John and I (shown with our sons Gavin (l.) and Ryan in a picture by John) met at the UC Davis Botany Department. We had in common our upbringing in Southern California, our interest in the natural world and the deserts, Joshua Tree and Death Valley. John's interest in the Kingdom fungi has led to a career as a professor of mycology at UC Berkeley. I worked in plant tissue culture propagation until my career was subsumed with motherhood. Academic sabbaticals brought us to Australia in 1987 and to Denmark in 1996. We are very pleased to see that our two sons are heading towards careers having something to do with biology. Ryan is going for a PhD at MSU, Lansing, MI, with studies of red squirrels in Yukon, Canada. Gavin is a UC Santa Cruz undergrad and has worked with birds, fish and this summer, the bristlecone pines.

When we moved to Berkeley in 1980, we bought the house that had a flowing creek with hopes that it could be made to feel wild. It had trees native to site—a very old bay, oaks, and a big leaf maple. After the ivy was beaten back, we had wildflowers, then, over the years, mostly natives have been added, edited and subtracted. I really enjoy following the plants through the year noting how they look as seedlings, then with their new leaves, buds, flowers, spent flowers, fruits

and in their dormant state. I am always excited to recognize my garden plants on a hiking trip. Unfortunately, remembering their names is another thing.

The flowing creek attracted a real botanist, Barbara Ertter, to the house next door. When she took her turn as President of our chapter, she asked me to help out. So, after being a "plant sale only" participant in CNPS for 20 years, I joined the board. Now our dog Annie and I enjoy the plants and people at Native Here Nursery. It is a treat to travel around the state for quarterly Chapter Council meetings. Serving as President of EBCNPS is a great experience and I encourage all members to get active as it helps to cure environmental anxiety.

We try to keep up and do enjoy our extended family of scientists located in Alaska, Idaho, Boston and St Louis, a batch of organic farmers in nearby Capay Valley (www.farmfresh-toyou.com), and art lovers in Houston. One brother owns a bed and breakfast near the Pont du Gard, France, which is a lovely place to visit.

I'm involved with a few other groups. The University Section Club, founded ages ago by professor's wives, provides services and grants for students and meets in sections centered on interests—for me, singing, sewing and birding. Last year, I had great fun performing in the musical *Trial by Jury* (Gilbert and Sullivan). Joanne Orenge (EBCNPS book person) and I shop for the Souper Center in Richmond once a month. But the act that has gained me more admiration than anything else is remembering to put out "Street Sweeping Today" warning signs on Catalina Avenue to save our neighbors from getting tickets, as well as allowing the street to be cleaned.

Delia Taylor

Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

*Mark your calendars for our Native Plant Fair 2009,
Saturday, October 10, 10 am - 3 pm
Sunday, October 11, Noon - 3 pm
101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park Berkeley
(Across the street from Tilden Golf Course Entrance)
Volunteers are needed at this fun event, contact elainejx@att.net*

Martinez—Native Plant Garden and Strentzel Meadow located at the John Muir Historical Site in Martinez, ongoing weeding, planting, and learning about our local environment. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net.

Pleasant Hill—Volunteers are always welcome at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden. Contact Monika Olsen

at 925-937-1530 or email phecgarden@prodigy.net or go online to <http://phig.webs.com>.

Walnut Creek—Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net.

Do you have or know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it. Come up to our Native Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us with any questions.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in the April/May time frame. Liz Bitner, Sandra Cioppa, Randy DeValle, Sylvia Falcon, Ruth Grimes, Juliet Lamont, Alice LaPlace, Jeffrey Lewis, Linda Loza, R. Olowin, Pat. C. Pothier, Alma Raymond, & Christina Wistrom.

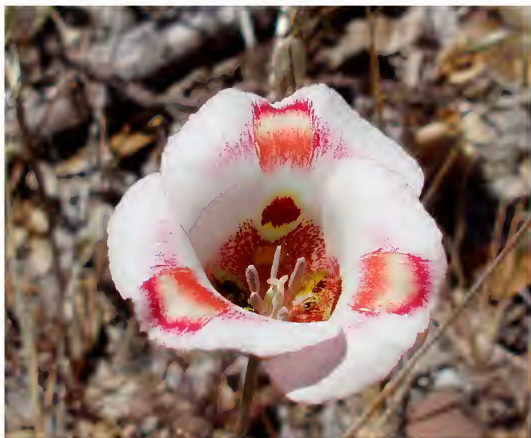
Many thanks to all who have renewed their membership throughout the year. May you enjoy many more years with EBCNPS!

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro

DEVIL'S ELBOW FIELD TRIP, APRIL 29, 2009

Gregg Weber led a field trip to Devil's Elbow on Mount Diablo on April 29, 2009. These pictures from the trip were taken by

Phred Jackson. Above is the group. Below left is *Calchortus venustus*. Below right is *Collinsia tinctoria*.



Chapter Directory

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President and Chapter Council Delegate

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deliataylor@mac.com

Vice President

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carolbcastro@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

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bleitner@pacbell.net

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Gawthrop
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Treasurer

Holly Forbes
hforbes@berkeley.edu
h 510-234-2913
w 510-643-8040

Assistant Treasurer (not an officer)

David Margolies
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dm@franz.com

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Funds Development

Carol Castro, Chair
Grant Management
Sally de Becker
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Sue Rosenthal, Chair
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

Information Infrastructure

Peter Rauch, Chair
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Volunteer coordinator
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volunteer@ebcnps.org

Programs

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Publicity

Dinah Russell, Chair
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maphappy@sonic.net

Rare Plants

Heath Bartosh, Chair
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Unusual Plants

Dianne Lake, Chair
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diannelake@yahoo.com

Vegetation

Erin McDermott, Chair
erinmcd2004@yahoo.com

EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Book & Poster Sales

Joanne Orenge
greentheglobe@juno.com

Grant Awards

Sandy McCoy
sandymccoy@mindspring.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Danielsen
nativehere@ebcnps.org
Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com
Seed Collection—Gregg
Weber
510-223-3310

Plant Fair

Gudrun Kleist
510-222-2320
gkleist@sbcglobal.net
and Charli Danielsen
Coordinators

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet
Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and Jane
Kelly
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom and
Jane Kelly

*Officers and Committee
Chairs serve on the Board.*

*Committees are formed
based on chapter needs and
the interests of volunteers.
Proposals for committees
and projects are welcome
and will be considered by
the Board.*

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____

Membership category:

- ____ Individual, \$45
- ____ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ____ Plant Lover, \$100.00
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Patron, \$300
- ____ Benefactor, \$600
- ____ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ____ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ____ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

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Time Value
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